

# Managing a Disaster at Home

Although you may not be ordered to evacuate-and even if you are-disasters can sometimes isolate you from outside help and make it necessary for you to care for yourself or other family members for days at a time. Your disaster supply kit will contain many of the supplies you will need. Here are other ways to use and manage the resources you have at your home.

## WATER

- Water is crucial for health and survival. If a disaster is imminent, fill pitchers, jars, water bottles and your bathtub in case your community water supply is contaminated or cut off.
- If your drinking water supply is running low, use water from ice cube trays the water heater and toilet tanks (not bowls). It is **not** safe to use the water from radiators, waterbeds or swimming pools to drink.
- Each person should drink at least two quarts of water each day. Drink what you need each day and look for more water sources for the next day.

## FOOD

- Ration food supplies for everyone except children and pregnant women. Most people can survive easily on half the normal intake amount.
- Avoid eating from dented or swollen cans or food that looks or smells bad.
- Use pre-prepared formulas for babies.

## IN CASE THE POWER GOES OUT

- Practice energy conservation to help CMP avoid "rolling brownouts".
- Always keep you car fuel tank at least half full-gas stations use electricity to operate pumps.
- Know how to manually release your electric garage door.
- Protect your computer with a surge protector.
- If the power goes out, check your fuse box or circuit breaker, or contact neighbors to see if the outage is limited to your house.
- Turn off computers, stereos, televisions and appliances you were using when the power went off. Leave one light on so you will be aware when the power is restored.
- Avoid opening refrigerator and freezer doors. Frozen food will remain frozen for up to four hours after the power goes off. If you know power outages may happen, freeze water bottles to keep food cool longer.
- If the outage is expected to last for several days or more, consider relocating to a shelter or a friend's home.

## USING A GENERATOR

If you plan to use a generator- operate it outside only-not in a basement or garage. Do not hook it up directly to you home's wiring. Instead connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.